

In my opinion we have two matters regarding telecommunications companies serving consumer markets. One is "truth in advertsing" and the perpetration of fraud; the other is abuse and/or violations of public trust inherent in the granting of radio spectrum space or public rights of way, as such useage rights are granted to certain companies for utilization of publicly owned air waves or physical access to publicly owned property used for cabling of any sort. In particular, the telephone companies, both landline and mobile celluar type, defraud the consumer through deceptive advertising for both costs and services. The public is duped into believing that it is paying government imposed surcharges, when in fact the funds are collected by the telecom companies to increase their profit margins by placing additional burden on the consumer to pay for the companies very own operating expenses. This is both fraud and breech of a public trust inherent in the granting of such ! lecenses. Both are criminal acts that are most definitiely of the felony class, given the amount of monies involved via the fraud. If I refuse to pay these "hidden fees" I have been threatened with a discontinuation of my phone services. As they are guilty of obvious crimes, why should I be penalized for protecting my rights under law. More than just a slap on the wrist is required for such theft. I would expect a major case fro prosecuting these criminals would be leveled by the attorneys gederal of each state of the counterpart at the federal govenment level. You must do you job! I am writing to urge to you to stop phone companies from imposing misleading charges on my monthly phone bill so I can truly compare prices of phone services. I support the petition filed by the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates and endorsed by other consumer advocacy organizations, including CU. This petition, CG Docket No. 04-208, Petition for Declaratory Ruling R!

egarding Truth-In-Billing and Billing Format, is long overdue. Many consumers feel as I do -- annoyed with a long list of new charges and frustrated with trying to compare prices when shopping for telecommunications service. Phone bills should be truthful, easy to read and easy to understand. Instead, the long distance and wireless bills are filled with surcharges with misleading names that imply the line items are mandated by law, when they are not. Because this practice is tolerated by the FCC, long distance and wireless phone companies are able to hide the true cost of service. These add-ons make the advertised price of service significantly less than the amount of the check I have to write each month to pay the bill. Competition will not work if consumers cannot accurately compare prices.